

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The informalities objected to in Claims 1, 4, 7, 21, 22, 24, and 27 have been corrected in response to the Examiner's kind suggestions. In claims 1, 11, and 21, punctuation marks have been properly applied. In claims 2 and 22, "cassette" is changed to --substrate-- in view of line 4 of claims 1 and 21 respectively. In claims 4 and 24, --said-- is inserted after "of" since the "curbing member" has been set forth in claims 1 and 21. In claims 7 and 27, "provides" has been changed to --provide--.

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 5, 8, 10, 25, 28, and 30 under 35 U.S.C., 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention, is requested, in light of the following arguments.

Claims 5 and 25 have been amended in response to the Examiner's kind suggestions.

Claims 8 and 28 have been amended to clarify the structural relationship between the substrate support channels and substrate.

Claims 10 and 30 have been amended. The limitation "said sloped profile" has been added in its respective independent claims.

Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled. Their limitations have been brought up to Claim 1.

Claims 11-20 objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being substantial duplicates, have been cancelled.

Reconsideration for the allowance of Claims 1-10, 11-20, and 21-30 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,921,397 (Whalen '397) is requested, in light of the following arguments.

Briefly, applicants wish to point out the major features of their invention which is a novel cassette comprising a train of substrate support channels that hold fragile substrates in a linear array. A conventional cassette also holds substrates in a linear array. However, the difference between a conventional cassette and the invention is that the cassette of the invention has an curbing member with a sloped profile facing the entrance of the cassette. When the substrates are inserted into the cassette by way of the support channels, each is guided by the sloped profile through a necked portion of the curbing member and secured under the curbing member. This curbing member prevents the

substrates from "jutting" out beyond the curbing member while also preventing substrate breakage. As claimed in amended claim 1: A substrate carrier for securing semiconductor substrates, comprising: a cassette having, an upper substrate entrance; a lower substrate support opening; a first end partition disposed opposite a second end partition; a first side panel disposed opposite a second side panel, said panels having an inner surface thereof, with an aligned train of paired channels for holding substrates, said channels are formed having two side surfaces and a bottom surface, said channels having a curbing member with a sloped profile, is disposed on an upper side of each channel, said curbing member enables a circular substrate to slide by said sloped profile past a necked portion of opposing channels, thereafter securing said substrate under said curbing member.

Whalen teaches an improved cassette embodiment that has a cross-sectional profile such that engagement grooves 46, 48 have a dual angle configuration which maintain each substrate in radial contact at four different areas. This configuration is acceptable for a substrate disk made of a polycarbonate material as used for data storage disks. Semiconductor substrates, particularly silicon wafers, have highly stressed peripheries that are subject to chipping when overly-constrained. In Figs. 13 and 14, for example, illustrating the advantages for containing storage disks while protecting the sensitive recording medium. Whalen's cassette would not prevent a semiconductor wafer from jutting out of its nested position.

Appl. No. 10/615,743
Amdt. dated Jan. 7, 2005
Reply to Office Action of Oct. 7, 2004-

Claim 6 remains in this application. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-10, and 21-30 have been amended. Claims 2, 3, and 11-20 have been cancelled.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

By  _____

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